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ABSTRACT

This bulletin presents news and opinions of the staff of Project Brave of the St. John Valley in northern Maine. This issue presents a description of the bilingual program in progress there; many photographs of the region and Project are included. The text is in French and English. (SK)

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1970 - 1975

Bilingual Research in American and Valley Education

BRAVE IS FOR KIDS

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FL005156

VOLUME 3, NO. 1

"The State of Maine has inherited in its ethnic population the cultures of the world."

Former Governor John H. Reed

ST. JOHN VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION

TITLE VII STAFF

Omer Picard, Director
Gil Hebert, Evaluator
Norman Dube, French Specialist
Sr. Sharon Leavitt, Curriculum Specialist and Brave Bulletin Editor

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LE PROJET BILINGUE DE LA VALLEE SAINT-JEAN

Le long de la frontière nord de l'Etat du Maine coule la rivière Saint-Jean. Là, habite un peuple bilingue qui depuis un siècle vit dans son isolement et passe presque inaperçu.

La jeunesse dans cette règion, appelée la Vallée Saint-Jean, apprend deux langues (le français et l'anglais) et partage un double héritage culturel.

L'enseignement des professeurs reflète leur habileté dans les deux langues. Les parents et les grands-parents cultivent chez leurs enfants leur héritage français-américain. Les gens, habiles et travailleurs, ont développés leur propre identité.

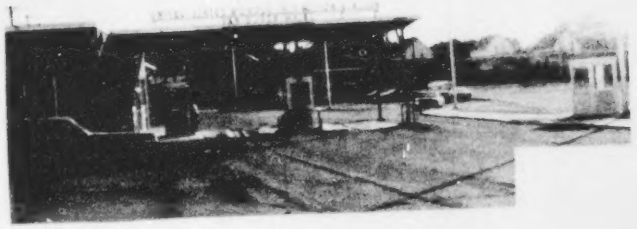
ST. JOHN VALLEY BILINGUAL PROJECT

1970-- 1975

Along the peaceful St. John River Valley in the northernmost portion of Maine lies a bilingual region which has survived for centuries practically unnoticed.

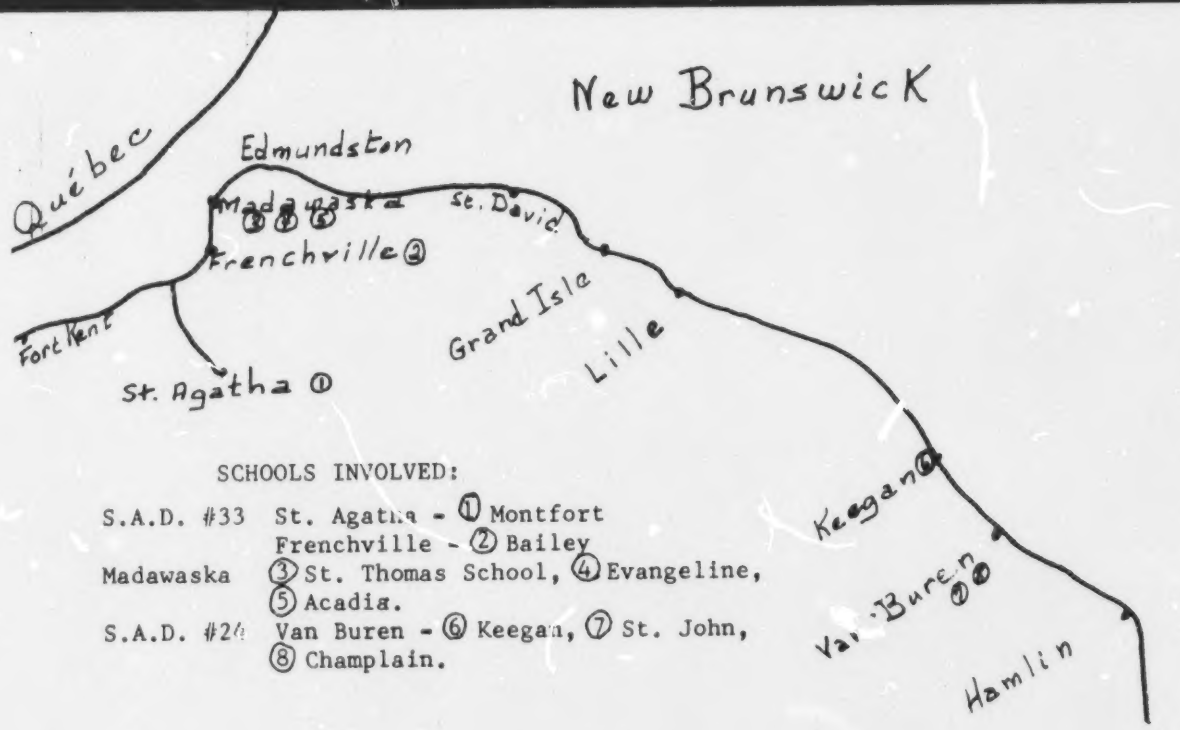
Bilingual children of the Valley now learn to read and write in French and to be proud of the bilingual heritage.

Teachers of the area now implement their dual language ability in the instruction of youth. Parents and grandparents appreciate the fact that today's youngsters enrich both their English and French languages. Everyone grows daily in self-knowledge and a more positive self-image.



Le programme bilingue, qui doit durer cinq ans est subventionné par le gouvernement fédéral. Le but est de donner aux enfants les ressources nécessaires pour se développer dans les deux langues, le français et l'anglais.

Déja, trois systèmes scolaires, qui comprennent Frenchville, St. Agatha, Madawaska, **et Van Buren** bénéficient de ce programme pilote. Dans sa troisième année le programme comptait six cents élèves répartis dans vingt-six classes aux niveaux de la maternelle jusqu'en troisième année.

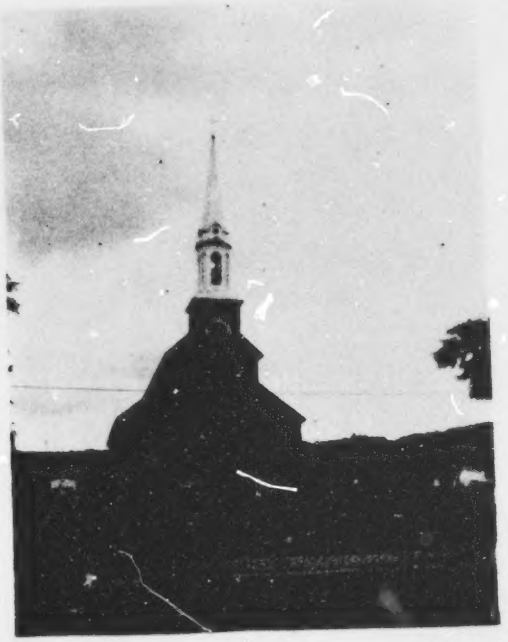


SCHOOLS INVOLVED:

S.A.D. #33 St. Agatha - ① Montfort
Frenchville - ② Bailey

Madawaska ③ St. Thomas School, ④ Evangeline, ⑤ Acadia.

S.A.D. #26 Van Buren - ⑥ Keegan, ⑦ St. John, ⑧ Champlain.



The St. John Valley Bilingual Project is a five-year program funded by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title VII, aimed at promoting bilingualism and the positive utilization of our children's native ability to speak both French and English.

The Project covers three school systems of northern Maine--Frenchville, St. Agatha, Madawaska, Van Buren and Grand Isle. In the third year pilot classes number 26, involving approximately 600 children in kindergarten, first, second and third grades.

For many years, educators of the St. John Valley and many others have realized the true need for an instructional program designed specifically for children born in this French-English environment.

Bilingualism has been looked upon as a handicap in many of these children. In the past, little or no account was taken of their French language and, in many instances, it was almost blotted out.

Language attitudes were seriously harmed in many children as their home language was completely ignored by the school.

The Bilingual Project has as its goal the improvement of both French and English language attitudes in order to help the children of the largest minority group of Maine find and attain their rightful place in American society.

It was in response to this obvious need that the St. John Valley obtained a developmental grant in the spring of 1970.

Les principaux objectifs du programme sont:

1. Le développement, chez l'élève, des skills en anglais dans une plus grande mesure qu'avant le projet.
2. Le développement, chez l'élève, du français comme moyen d'étude et de communication.

   L'appréciation, chez l'élève, de son héritage canadien-acadien.

The major five-year goals of the Project are:

1. Students will be able to use English to a higher proficiency than before the onset of the Project.
2. Students will have proficiency in using French as a tool for learning.
3. Students will understand and be proud of their Canadian-Acadian heritage.

La population du programme bilingue est composée;

A. de six cents élèves:
   1. maternelle (6 classes)
   2. première (7 classes)
   3. deuxième (7 classes)
   4. troisième (6 classes)

B. de dix directeurs:
   1. les surintendents de M.S.A.D. No. 33 (Frenchville St. Agatha), Madawaska, et M.S.A.D. No. 24 (Van Buren).
   2. deux membres du Conseil Scolaire dans chaque système.
   3. un représentant de l'Université du Maine à Fort Kent.

C. de conseillers:
   six laïques de la Vallée Saint-Jean qui représentent le clergé, les hommes d'affaire, les parents et les étudiants au high school.

Un bulletin de renseignements au sujet du programme bilingue est distribué aux parents chaque mois.

The Project is composed of:

A. Instructional levels (involving 600 students)
   1. kindergartens (6 classes)
   2. first grades (7 classes)
   3. second grades (7 classes)
   4. third grades (6 classes)

B. Board of Directors:
   1. Superintendents of M.S.A.D. No. 33 (Frenchville-St. Agatha), Madawaska, and M.S.A.D. No. 24 (Van Buren).
   2. Two representatives from each local school board.
   3. One representative from the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

C. Advisory Council:
   Six community members of each area representing the clergy, businessmen, parents and high school students.

A monthly bulletin (BRAVE) is published to keep the community posted on Project events.

Parents and high school students are encouraged to take an active part in classroom activities whenever possible.

Les parents et les étudiants au high school sont encouragés à prendre une part active aux activités dans les écoles.

Bilingual education implies using both French and English languages for instruction for the same pupil population in a well-planned and organized program affecting the following areas of curriculum:

a. English Language Arts
b. Math
c. French Language Arts
d. Creative Arts (French directives)
   Drama
   Music
   Art
e. Social Science (French)

Staff Development:

Designed to give the teachers any help they may need to conduct a bilingual program in their classrooms. This may include pre-service as well as in-service programs on teaching English as a second language, French as a second language, or the teaching of French or English as a first language and learning about Canadian-Acadian culture.

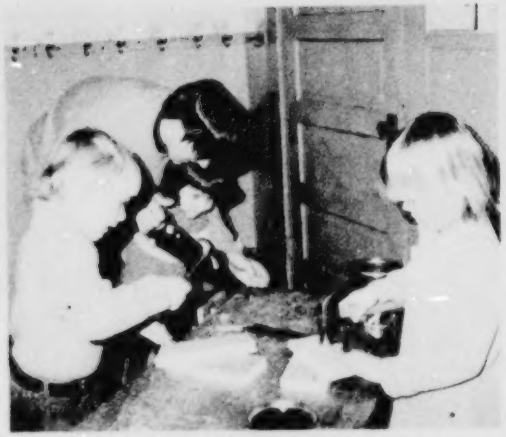
Une éducation bilingue signifie l'émploi de l'anglais et du français, par une population donnée dans un programme d'enseignement, qui touche les matière suivantes:

a. l'anglais
b. les mathématiques
c. le français
d. la peinture
   la musique
   l'artisanat
   le théâtre
e. les sciences sociales

Les professeurs prennent part à des ateliers ou suivent des cours de formation spécialisée pour se préparer à l'enseignement requis dans une situation bilingue. Cette formation inclut l'enseignement des langues et de la culture.

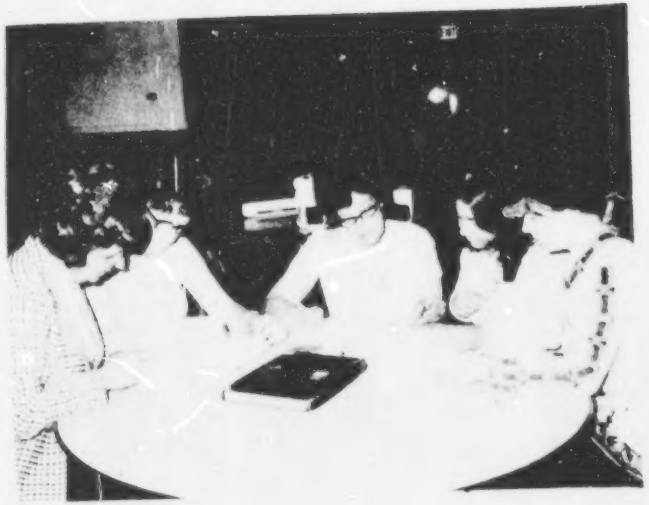
Bilingualism and biculturalism cannot
begin too soon in the life of a child.

Une éducation bilingue et biculturelle
commence très tôt dans la vie d'un enfant.



CREATIVITY ABOUNDS AT ALL AGES

L'ESPRIT CREATEUR EST DE TOUT AGE



Bilingual materials are created by the staff to facilitate learning for the youngsters of the Valley.

Un personnel spécialisé prépare les matériaux nécessaires pour le programme des élèves. Le but est d'aider ceux-ci à cultiver un amour pour les études.

OFFICE STAFF

Standing: Dr. Normand Dubé, French Consultant; Gilman Hébert, Evaluator; Omer Picard, Director. Seated: Janine Deschene, Charlene Garon, Huguette Côté, Secretaries; Sr. Sharon Leavitt, Curriculum Coordinator.

PRINCIPALS SUPERVISORS

Floyd Lancia, Director of Instructional Services, S.A.D. No. 24; Guy Dube, Principal, Madawaska; Carlton Dubois, Follow-Through Director, S.A.D. No. 24; Reynold Tardif, Principal, S.A.D. No. 33; Melvin Labbe, Curriculum Coordinator, Madawaska. Absent is Wayne Stedt, Principal, S.A.D. No. 24.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Standing; Jack Michaud, Philip'Rossignol, Joffre Daigle, Rev. Father Fecteau, Rev. Father Levesque. Seated: Ursula Michaud, A.J. Michaud, Marcella Violette, Martine Pelletier. Absent are Adrian E. Gagnon, Bob Lausier, Jean Paul Ouellette, Camille Bernier, Mark Michaud, Sr. Eva Chouinard, Louise Lagasse.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Standing: John Houghton, Supt., Madawaska; Albert Roy, School Board Member, Madawaska; Dick Morin and James Roy, School Board Members, S.A.D. #33. Seated: Dr. Roger Grindle, U. of M. at Fort Kent; Guy Baker, Supt. S.A.D. #33 (Frenchville-St. Agatha); Joel Leblanc, Chairman of the Board, Madawaska; Robert Paris, Service de Liaison, Greenville, N.H.; Elmer Corbin, School Board Member, Van Buren. Absent are Lorne Parent Jr., Van Buren and Charles Tanous, Supt. of S.A.D. #24 (Van Buren).

TITLE VII TEACHERS AND TEACHER-AIDES

MONTFORT SCHOOL - ST. AGATHA (S.A.D. No. 33)

Mabel Plourde, Ann Marie Ouellette, Barbara Kavanagh, Rita Chamberland, Terry Ouellette, Helen Melvin.

BAILEY SCHOOL - FRENCHVILLE (S.A.D. No. 33)

Paula Michaud, Annette Soucy, Eileen Chamberland, Blanche Guerrette, Claudette Violette, Sr. Jeannette Roy, Stella Ouellette, May Bouchard, Sr. Juliette Michaud, Constance Derosier, Sr. Thelma Bouchard, Jeannine Michaud, Bern Albert.

EVANGELINE SCHOOL - MADAWASKA

Leola Gagnon, Fernande Dufour, Sr. Bertha Michaud, Terry Ayotte, Dot Hartt.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL - VAN BUREN (S.A.D No. 24)

Standing: Wayne Stedt, Principal; John Parent, Angie Hotchkin, Leola Laplante, Della Bellefleur, Sr. Dot Violette. Seated: Sr. Corinne Sirois, Phyllis Frank, Sr. Yvette Plante, Lorraine Cyr, Absent is Lorraine Leblanc.

KEEGAN SCHOOL - KEEGAN (S.A.D. No. 24)

Jacky Cyr, Muriel Thibodeau, Tom Cyr, Antoinette Deschaine, Lorraine Ouellette, Lorraine Berube, Mildred Soucy, Sr. Elena Dionne, Theresa Cyr, Pricilla Dufour.

ST. THOMAS SCHOOL - MADAWASKA

Standing: Linda Palmer, Selma Cyr, Theresa Thibeault, Joyce Crosby, Louella Marquis, Irma Mavor. Seated: Romella Cyr, Alphena Ayotte, Sr. Yvette Raymond, Aline Bouchard, Rachel Daigle.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

page 1
a) The St. John River (from the Van Buren International Bridge)
b) The Ernest Chassé farm (St. David, Me.)
c) Landscape of St. Agatha, Me.

page 2
a) U. S. Border Inspection Station, Van Buren, Me.
b) "Fantastic View" picnic area, Lille, Maine
c) Museum, Madawaska Historical Society (St. David, Me.)
d) Madawaska, Maine
e) The St. John River (taken from Fort Kent Cemetery)

page 3
a) St. Luce Church (Upper Frenchville, Me.)
b) St. John School (Van Buren, Me.)

page 4
a) Kindergarten class (Van Buren, Me.)
b) First grade (Upper Frenchville, Me.)

page 5
a) Group of second graders (Upper Frenchville, Me.)
b) Gilman Michaud (second grade, Keegan, Me.)

page 6
a) Kindergartners (Madawaska, Me.)
b) First graders (Madawaska, Me.)
c) Second grade (Keegan, Me.)

page 7
a) Mrs. Lorraine Ouellette (second grade, Keegan, Me.) and parent volunteer, Louise Lagassé, with her daughter, Karen and son, John
b) Mrs. Betty Levesque visits her daughter, Susan, in Van Buren kindergarten with two pre-schoolers
c) Bonita Ouellette, Madawaska high school student, volunteers time in a second grade of Madawaska

page 8
(a)(b)(c)(d) Kindergarten students of Upper Frenchville dramatize "Les Acadiens "
e) Madawaska first graders tell the story of "Les Acadiens "

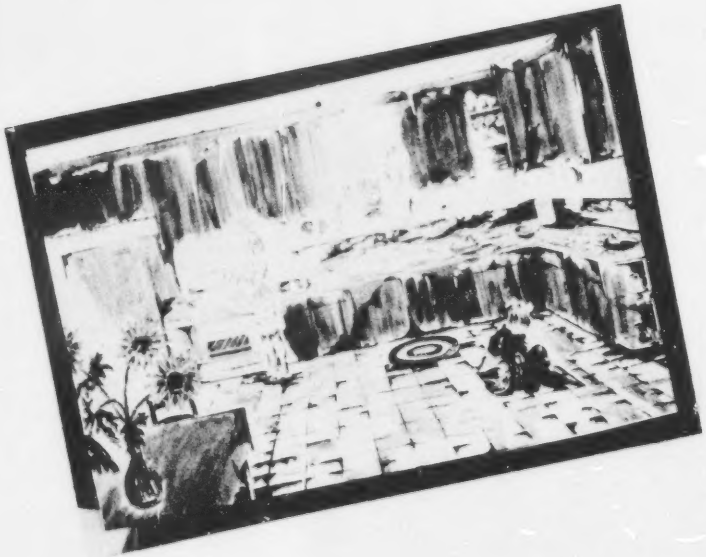
page 9
(a)(b) Kindergartners (Van Buren, Me.)
c) First graders of St. Agatha, Me.
d) First graders (Van Buren, Me.)
e) Madawaska Historical Society Arts & Crafts Fair

page 10
a) Summer (1972) team of materials development
b) Second graders (St. Agatha, Me.)
c) First graders (Van Buren, Me.)
d) First graders, Van Buren (with their mural)

Materials Developed

Three booklets, centered on life style and potentials in Maine & New Brunswick, were written for the third grade students.

Materials being developed reflect the cultural richness of the students' home background. A series of Social Studies booklets have been written for the second grade.



First grade students enrich their speaking experience through the use of educational posters related to their environment.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

French-English Bilingual Projects of the U.S.A.

(1) St. John Valley Bilingual Project, Madawaska, Maine
(2) Caribou Bilingual Project, Caribou, Maine
(3) Derby Bilingual Project, Derby, Vermont
(4) Mascenic Bilingual Program, Greenville, New Hampshire
(5) New Iberia Bilingual Project, New Iberia, Louisiana
(6) St. Martin Parish Project, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana
(7) Lafayette Parish Project, Lafayette, Louisiana